

NEWS RELEASE

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

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DATE: April 16, 2019

CONTACT: Stacy Rowe

SUBJECT: Incidental take notice for Buffalo County

MADISON -- The State Highway 35 Bridge Replacement project may result in the "incidental taking" of a rare frog under an authorization the Department of Natural Resources proposes to issue for the project. Incidental take refers to the unintentional loss of individual endangered or threatened animals or plants that does not put the overall population of the species at risk.

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation proposes to replace two bridges along State Highway 35 in Buffalo County.

The presence of the state endangered Blanchard's cricket frog (*Acris blanchardi*) has been confirmed in the vicinity of the project site. DNR staff determined that the proposed project may result in the incidental taking of some frogs.

The Department has concluded that the proposed project will minimize the impacts to the species by adhering to conservation measures; is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence and recovery of the state population of the species or the whole plant-animal community of which it is a part; and has benefit to the public health, safety or welfare that justifies the action.

The conservation measures to minimize the adverse effect on the endangered species will be incorporated into the proposed Incidental Take Authorization. Copies of the jeopardy assessment and background information on the Blanchard's cricket frog are available by searching the DNR website for [incidental take public notice](#) or upon request from Stacy Rowe (608-266-7012 or stacy.rowe@wi.gov). The department is requesting comments from the public through April 30, 2019 regarding project-related impacts to the Blanchard's cricket frog. Public comments should be sent to Stacy Rowe, WDNR, PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921 or stacy.rowe@wi.gov.

DNR Office of Communications. DNR Spokesperson: Sarah Hoyer (608) 267-2773